



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 12, 1994

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Travis Jones, Reclamation Hydrologist *TWJ*

RE: Site Inspection, Brush Wellman, Topaz Mining Property, M/023/003, Juab County, Utah

Date of Inspection: September 8, 1994  
Time of Inspection: 1015-1700  
Conditions: Sunny, Windy  
Participants: Greg Hawkins, Roy Thorn, John Wagner, Lee Davis - Brush Wellman;  
Travis Jones, Wayne Hedberg, Lynn Kunzler - DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: The purpose of this inspection was to examine the reclaimed areas for which Brush Wellman seeks release and also to inspect the area for which a variance has been requested.

The Division received a letter from Greg Hawkins, the mine manager for Brush Wellman, on August 4, 1994, making a second request for variance and release of reclaimed areas. The initial requests were made in a letter, dated January 28, 1994, that accompanied the 1993 annual report. The release request was for the work performed at the Taurus and Sigma Emma areas and a variance was requested from the prescribed revegetation standard as applicable to the Rainbow and Blue Chalk North dumps.

The September 10, 1992 Division letter states a variance would be granted to the revegetation standard for the Rainbow and Blue Chalk North dumps once reseeding had been verified. These dumps were initially seeded in 1988 and showed poor revegetation success. The Division requested a second seeding and committed to grant a variance to the revegetation standard once reseeding was verified.

We arrived at the Brush Wellman mill site at 10:15 a.m. Roy Thorn gave us a tour of the mill facility. After the mill tour, we proceeded to the mine site. Before examining the reclaimed areas we had lunch and a short meeting in the engineers office at the mine camp. Mr. Hawkins showed us an aerial photograph of the mine and pointed out the areas we would be inspecting.

The first area we inspected was the Taurus area. Brush Wellman seeks release for the safety berm construction and road reclamation in this area. The berm has been



constructed around the pit and stands approximately six feet high. The road was ripped and seeded in 1990. The revegetation success along the reclaimed road is minimal in places and ample in others. A release for the berm work should be granted but the road should have one more growing season before the next evaluation.

The next stop was the Sigma Emma area. Brush Wellman seeks release for the safety berm construction and road reclamation in this area. Similar to the Taurus pit, the safety berm stands at approximately six feet high. A release for the berm construction should be granted but the road should have one more growing season before the next evaluation. The road in this area was ripped and seeded in 1990. In general, the reclaimed road has sparse revegetation when compared to adjacent undisturbed land. Runoff along the portion of road east of the pit has created some rilling and a few deep gullies that drain into the Sigma Emma pit. Waterbars should be constructed along this road to prevent further erosion problems. The waterbars should be constructed at appropriate intervals, diagonally across the road, such that the runoff drains to the side of the road opposite the pit. Waterbars may hold more water on the road after a storm and thus could enhance revegetation efforts. Waterbars could also discourage off-road vehicle travel.

Next we visited the Roadside #1 and #2 backfilled pits. The backfill area has been covered with @3 inches of topsoil, fertilized and seeded (1992?). A stand of vegetation has developed, but does not yet meet the Division's revegetation standard. At least one more growing season should pass before we re-examine the revegetative success of this area. We also looked at the berm work surrounding the Roadside/Fluro #3 pit. The berm work appeared adequate.

Before proceeding to the test plots that have been constructed on the Section 16 dump site, we stopped at the Section 16 North #1 pit. This pit is currently being mined. The safety berm has been constructed for this pit which appears to be adequate. Details on the test plots can be found in the 1991 annual report.

The next areas we inspected were the Rainbow North dump and North Blue Chalk dump. The upper portions of these dumps have been seeded twice and little revegetation success has occurred. No topsoil material was available for redistribution over this area. A variance has been requested by Brush Wellman for the upper portion of these dumps. As stated earlier, the Division committed to grant this variance once the second reseeding effort was completed. The second reseeding effort was performed in 1992. Numerous photos were taken of the affected mine areas for future file reference. The inspection was terminated with the understanding that the Division would formulate a field inspection memo and a formal letter to Brush Wellman addressing the variance and revegetation release requests within the next couple of weeks.